



Oregon Coast STEM Hub



Organization

Backbone Organization: Oregon State University
Counties in Region: Clatsop, Coos, Curry, Lincoln
and Tillamook and coastal communities in Douglas
and Lane

Sq. Miles in Region: 7,207

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By the Numbers

School Districts: 20

Students: 26,322

Educators participated in Professional
Development: 371


Education hours in PD: 3,747

Students participated in STEM Hub Programs:
3,175

Student hours in STEM Hub Supported
Programs: 13,043

Building Community through STEAM

The Oregon Coast STEM Hub supported an end of year community event at North Bay Elementary in North Bend, Oregon as part of the Rural Learning Collaborative (RLC) project. Families were invited to join their students on the last day of school and community partners facilitated place-based natural resource stations on school grounds and adjacent forest ecosystems. The Siuslaw Watershed Council led invasive species removal and dune restoration activities, while the Coos Watershed Association provided environmental education, including investigating critters and answering questions about local natural resources. OSU-Extension Service Master Gardeners led seed bomb making for habitat restoration project at the site or to take home. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw shared traditional uses of native plants and weaving, while the Southwest Oregon Community College TRIO program led bird ecology activities. A RLC leader led investigations of thatcher ant hills in the forest, the South Slough Reserve provided



programs about invasive green crabs, and students who participated in the previous day's Code Can Dance workshop shared their knowledge through community performances. As RLC educator Edward Nichols reflected:

“a diverse group of educators and natural resource professionals came together to inspire the next generation of STEM leaders. These are the types of events that go beyond a single day. They engage both the students and the adults, who were donating their time and expertise. These powerful conversations make a more meaningful education for students at North Bay and beyond.”

Computer Science

During the 2022-2023 school year, our STEM Hub partnered to provide engaging, unique computer science programs in collaboration with the Rainbow Dance Theatre, their iLumiDance productions and corresponding Code Can Dance youth workshops. iLumiDance combines performance art, dance, and cutting-edge technology utilizing fiber optic fabric, electroluminescent wire, black light, and dance choreography. We collaborated to bring their programs to the entire coastline of Oregon. A free community performance was offered in Brookings and Coos Bay, thanks to the Elks Lodge in Brookings and the South Slough Reserve in Charleston. Each community performance was followed by an in-person Code Can Dance workshop within schools and libraries where students from brick and mortar and online/hybrid schools learned how to build and code their own luminescent costumes. Darryl Thomas from Western Oregon University worked with each school and community to decide what local story, tradition, and/or subject they wanted to focus on and tell via their costumes and dance. We also partnered with the OSU Extension Program, *Juntos Afuera*, and brought a Code Can Dance workshop to their Latino students in Tillamook. Each workshop concluded with students doing a performance for parents and community members in their local area.

Career Connected Learning

OCSH supports Career Connected Learning through our healthcare job shadow program in Lincoln County. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for Spanish speaking translators was acutely evident and resulted in increased interest in bilingual students serving as medical translators. We partnered with Northwest Oregon Works, Samaritan Health Services, the Olalla Center, OSU Extension Service, and the Oregon Coast Community College to develop a robust Allied Health Job Shadow Program to expose students to a variety of health care careers. This program provided in-depth hospital tours, visits to specialty offices, nursing programs, non-traditional mental health care, and nutrition education programs. Ultimately, we had eleven bilingual and multilingual students participate in this eight-week program, earning stipends for their time commitment. Students could also receive coaching on resume building, interviewing, and help exploring a range of medical field pathways. This included opportunities to receive Medical Assistant or Certified Nurse Assistant certification through dual credit programs in high school. These students will also ultimately have access to scholarship funds for future education.